

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 AID-05 EB-07

OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 FEAE-00 INT-05 AGR-05 CU-02

SIL-01 LAB-04 /125 W

----- 043656

R 040916Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9679

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

ZAP/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MANDALAY BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI BY POUCH

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 1466

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA #20

1. NEW SOVIET BLAST AT PRC SUPPORT TO INSURGENTS (UNCLAS)

RADIO MOSCOW MAY 31 IN BURMESE CARRIED ANOTHER DENUNCIATION OF PRC

"INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS" OF BURMA AND SUPPORT TO BCP

(WHITE FLAG) INSURGENTS (FBIS BANGKOK 030352Z JUN 75). AIMED IN

PART AT GUB ITSELF, THE BROADCAST EMPHASIZED THAT PEKING IS OP-

POSING "THE AUTHORITIES LEGALLY ELECTED BY THE ENTIRE MASSES" IN

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"FREE ELECTIONS." IT ASSERTED THAT BURMA ARMY HAS CAPTURED

"DOCUMENTS CONFIRMING THE PRC'S DIRECT INTERFERENCE" AS WELL AS WEAPONS, AMMO AND RADIOS.

COMMENT: (LOU) REFERENCE TO WEAPONS AND DOCUMENTS MAY BE TO THOSE EXHIBITED TO PRESS IN MID-1974 FOLLOWING BCP RETREAT AND BURMA ARMY RECAPTURE OF AREAS IN NORTHEAST (TO MOSCOW'S ANNOYANCE, RESIDENT TASS AND IZVESTIYA CORRESPONDENTS DECLINED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PRESS OUTING). SOVIET AMBASSADOR, HOWEVER, IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH A WESTERN AMBASSADOR, NOTED OBSCURE NEWS STORY MAY 27 IN BOTATAUNG (WHICH SOMETIMES TAKES PRO-SOVIET LINE) REPORTING BURMA ARMY AMBUSH OF BCP PATROL, KILLING TWO BCP AND CAPTURING TWO WEAPONS IDENTIFIED AS "M-21 AND M-22." SOVIET AMBASSADOR ASSERTED THESE WERE CHINESE, AND PROFESSED TO SEE SOME SIGNIFICANCE IN GUB'S PUBLICATION OF STORY. EVEN IF HE IS RIGHT AS TO IDENTIFICATION OF CAPTURED WEAPONS, REFERENCE IS TOO OBSCURE TO HAVE ANY POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE--EXCEPT POSSIBLY IN SPARKING THE LATEST SOVIET DENUNCIATION.

2. DEPUTY PRIMIN TO SOVIET UNION (UNCLAS)

DEPUTY PRIMIN U LWIN LEFT FOR MOSCOW JUNE 3 "TO NEGOTIATE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND STUDY ECONOMIC PROJECTS IN USSR." HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL STATISTIC DEPARTMENT (U MAUNG MAUNG KHIN) AND DIRECTOR, FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT (U SOE SAING).

COMMENT: (LOU) TRIP HAS GENERATED PREDICTABLE RUMORS ABOUT MAJOR SOVIET AID OR ARMS DEAL. WE BELIEVE REASONS FOR TRIP PROBABLY MORE PROSAIC, INCLUDING NEED TO RESCHEDULE BURMESE REPAYMENTS IN RICE FOR SOVIET AID PROJECTS OF LATE 1950'S; GUB HAS HAD INSUFFICIENT RICE AVAILABLE IN LAST THREE YEARS AND HAD TO POSTPONE SHIPMENTS. U LWIN IS ALSO EXPECTED TO VISIT ONE OR TWO EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

3. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH VIET-NAM (UNCLAS)

GUB MAY 29 ANNOUNCED ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH VIET-NAM, FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT PREVIOUS DAY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH DRV (WEEK 19, ITEM 2).

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4. LABOR UNREST (CONF)

WITH THE APPROACH OF THE JUNE 6 ANNIVERSARY OF LAST YEAR'S LABOR VIOLENCE, RUMORS ARE WIDESPREAD THAT SOME KIND OF DISTURBANCES MAY BE FORTHCOMING. SLOW DOWNS AT JUTE MILL, TEXTILE PLANT AND RAILWAY REPAIR SHOPS REPORTEDLY CONTINUE AND MAY HAVE SPREAD TO DOCKYARD; TROOPS WERE ALLEGEDLY DISPATCHED TO THE JUTE MILL AND DOCKYARD IN A SHOW OF FORCE BUT NO ARRESTS REPORTED.

CONCERN ALSO CENTERS ON POSSIBLE ALLIANCE BETWEEN STUDENTS AND WORKERS QWD THERE ARE RUMBLINGS ON RASU CAMPUS ABOUT POSSIBLE SYMPATHY PROTESTS JUNE 5 OR 6. FORTHCOMING EXAMS MAY PREOCCUPY STUDENTS AND HEAVY MONSOON RAINS DAMPEN WORKERS' SPIRITS, HOWEVER. ARMY REPORTEDLY WOULD PREFER TO SEE PARTY CADRE DEFUSE LABOR TENSION BUT WOULD NOT HESITATE TO USE NECESSARY FORCE TO QUELL ANY DISORDERS. (RANGOON 1453).

5. BCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE RECONSTITUTED (UNCLAS)

BURMA COMMUNIST PARTY (WHITE FLAG) RADIO JUNE 1 BROADCAST LIST OF BCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND POLILBURO AS RECONSTITUTED FOLLOWING VIRTUAL ERADICATION OF BOTH BY GUB ACTION AND INTRAPARTY PURGES (RANGOON 1454). ALL MEMBERS EXCEPT CHAIRMAN THAKIN BA THEIN TIN AND THE THREE OTHER SURVIVING MEMBERS OF PREVIOUS CC ARE VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN. LIST INCLUDES 18 FULL CC MEMBERS, SEVEN OF WHOM CONSTITUTE POLITBURO, AND 14 CANDIDATE MEMBERS.

COMMENT: (LOU) SURPRISING ASPECT OF LIST IS APPARENT ABSENCE OF REPRESENTATION OF NORTHEAST COMMAND WHICH REPRESENTS BCP'S MAIN STRENGTH. ETHNIC MINORITIES ALSO ARE SPARSELY REPRESENTED. LIST THUS SUGGESTS THAT NORTHEAST COMMAND REMAINS ESSENTIALLY INDEPENDENT OF BCP POLITBURO (PROBABLY BASED IN PEKING) AND CC (SOME OF WHOSE MEMBERS ARE IN CHINA, OTHERS IN BURMA), - MAINTAINS

OWN DIRECT LINKS WITH PRC PROBABLY THROUGH YUNNAN PARTY OR ARMY AUTHORITIES.

6. NEW ANTI-GUB UNITED FRONT? (LOU)

FBIS 010238Z JUN 75 CARRIED BANGKOK PRESS REPORT THAT FOLLOWING TWO WEEKS OF "INTENSE NEGOTIATION" AT THE KAREN NATIONAL UNION (KNU) HEADQUARTERS ON THE THAI-BURMA BORDER, A NEW ANTI-GUB
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OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 FEAE-00 INT-05 AGR-05 CU-02

SIL-01 LAB-04 /125 W

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R 040916Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9680

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

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AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 1466

COALITION OF ETHNIC INSURGENTS HAD BEEN FORMED - THE "FEDERAL NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONG" (FNDF). PARTICIPANTS IN THE COALITION ARE CLAIMED TO INCLUDE THE ARAKAN LIBERATION PARTY, THE KNU, THE KARENNI NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE PARTY, THE NEW MON STATE PARTY, AND THE SHAN STATE PROGRESSIVE PARTY. THE SELF-PROCLIMED GOAL OF THE FRONT IS THE OVERTHROW OF THE NE WIN REGIME AND IT WELCOMES PARTICIPATION OF OTHER ETHNIC INSURGENTS. THE FRONT ALSO CONTENTS IT MUST DEFEND ITSELF FROM ENCROACHMENT BY THE BCP BUT CLAIMS ITS CAUSE IS NOT ANTI-COMMUNISM AND IS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE BCP. MAHN BA ZAN, PRESIDENT OF THE KNU ASSERTED THAT "CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES" WELCOME THE FRONT AND FORSEES FOREIGN AID AND CONFIDENTIAL

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RECOGNITION. COMMENT: ANTI-GUB FRONTS OF ETHNIC INSURGENTS ARE NOT UNCOMMON BUT TEND TO HAVE A SHORT LIFE SPAN. IN THIS INSTANCE, ONLY THE KNU REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT FIGHTING FORCE AND ITS CAPABILITIES ARE LIMITED TO HARASSMENT OF THE BURMA ARMY. PROSPECTS FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE FNDF ARE PROBABLY NOT BRIGHT.

7. CHANGE IN BSPP CREED: MAN LIVES NOT BY BREAD ALONE (LOU)

OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS, THE 14 YEAR OLD CREED OF THE BSPP DEFIN-

ING THE BURMESE WAY TO SOCIALISM HAS BEEN QUIETLY REMOVED FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND REPLACED BY A NEW SOMEWHAT MODIFIED VERSION. THE ESSENCE OF THE STATEMENT REMAINS THE SAME; SOCIAL EVILS CAN BE ELIMINATED ONLY WHEN PERNICIOUS ECONOMIC SYSTEMS ARE REPLACED BY SOCIALISM. HOWEVER, DELETED FROM THE NEW VERSION IS THE ASSERTION THAT MAN CAN BE EMANCIPATED ONLY WHEN "FREE FROM ANXIETIES OVER FOOD, CLOTHING AND SHELTER...FOR AN EMPTY STOMACH IS NOT CONDUCTIVE TO WHOLESOME MORALITY..." THE BSPP APPARENTLY DOESN'T WANT TO BE TOO SPECIFIC ABOUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE POPULACE.

8. OFF SHORE PETROLEUM NOTES (LOU)

APPARENTLY HAVING CONVINCED THE GUB THAT DRILLING BEYOND 13,800 FEET AT ITS FIRST TEST WELL WOULD BE FUTILE (WEEK 19, ITEM 6), EXXON MAY 31 CEASED OPERATIONS AND PREPARED TO MOVE ITS FLOATING RIG FROM BLOCK 10 TO THE SOUTHEAST PORTION OF BLOCK 12 FURTHER SOUTH IN THE ANDAMAN SEA TO UNDERTAKE ITS SECOND TEST WELL. CITIEST SERVICE CONTINUED ITS EFFORTS TO RECOVER THE DRILL PIPING FROM ITS FIRST WELL WHICH BROKE OFF FOLLOWING LAST MONTH'S CYCLONIC STORM. FAILURE TO SALVAGE THE EQUIPMENT COULD MEAN AN ADDITIONAL DELAY IN ITS DRILLING SCHEDULE SINCE SPARES ARE NOT ON HAND AND MUST BE IMPORTED.

9. RICE DEVELOPMENTS (UNCLAS)

GUB SOURCES NOW ESTIMATE 1974-75 PADDY CROP AT 8.46 MILLION TONS ALTHOUGH SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THIS FIGURE TO BE SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTIC IN VIEW OF DAMAGE TO STORED RICE AND PADDY IN DELTA REGION FROM LAST MONTH'S STORM. GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT OF PADDY HARVEST WHICH IS NOW VIRTUALLY COMPLETE TOTALED 132 MILLION BASKETS BY LATE MAY. WHILE SHORT OF TARGET OF 146 MILLION BASKETS, THIS IS CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT OVER LAST YEAR'S DISMAL RECORD OF 72 MILLION BASKETS. DEPENDING ON THE AMOUNT OF RICE THE GUB DECIDES TO HOLD FOR DOMESTIC DISTRIBUTION AND RESERVEYXN SOME 500,000 TONS MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT. DESPITE EARLIER GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT 100,000 TONS OF RICE WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH GOVERNMENT CHANNELS MONTHLY, DISTRIBUTION FOR MAY TOTALED ONLY 60,000 TONS AND PRICE ON BLACK MARKET REMAINS VERY HIGH.

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